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REPORT OF BARK BEETLE CONTROL WORK AT LODGEPOLE CAMP

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REPORT OF BARK BEETLE CONTROL WORK AT LODGEPOLE CAMP

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

December 10, 1929

INTRODUCTION: In an effort to decrease the infestation of jeffrey pine beetle(Dendroctonus jeffreyi) in the Lodgepole Camp area, work was started on October 16, 1929 and completed October 31st 1929 except for three trees which were treated during December 6, 9, and 10. Besides the jeffrey pine, four lodgepole pines infested with mountain pine beetle(Dendroctonus monticolae) were felled and treated.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORK: As a result of the forest insect reconnaisance conducted by J. M. Miller, Forest Entomologist, and the Acting Park Forester from October 11 to 14 inc., it decided to carry out a contol project in Lodgepole Camp.

Lodgepole Camp is a public camp ground situated about four miles north of Giant Forest. The Marble Fork of the Kaweah River flows thru the area. This camp because of the completion of the new road from Giant Forest will be very popular as it is very attractively situated.

Jeffrey pine and lodgepole pine are the predominating forest trees which combine to form a rather sparse forest cover. As Lodgepole Camp is to be developed and because trees are not abundant, care is being exercised to protect the cover which is even now inadequate.

The infested jeffrey pine trees were felled, the bark peeled from the beetle affected portion, and the bark burned under the fallen tree. By this method the unpeeled bark on the under part of the tree was burned off, and beetles falling on the ground during peeling were certain to be destroyed.

One jeffrey pine was felled in the Marble Fork and the peeled bark thrown into the stream as the fallen tree was not in a position favorable for burning.

The beetle ridden Lodgepole pines were felled and treated by burning brush around the fallen tree without peeling the bark.

The area treated is about one mile long and about a quarter of a mile wide.

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The altitude is 6719 feet.

A three-man crew was employed on the job.

During the sixteen working days of control treatment twenty-seven trees were treated at a total cost of $215.00. The cost according to species was divided as follows:

Jeffrey Pine

Total number treated.....23
Total cost of treatment.....$205.00
Cost of treating each tree.....$8.91

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Lodgepole Pine

Total number treated.....4
Total cost of treatment.....$10.00
Cost of treating each tree.....$2.50

The cost of treating the jeffrey pine was very high because the salary of the Acting Forester, who was one of the three man crew, was included in the cost; the men were not experienced in peeling bark; the trees were scattered; and a ten mile drive was necessary each day. However, the importance of protecting the Lodgepole Camp area is worth even a greater cost.

Tree Data

	Jeffrey Pine	Lodgepole Pine
Number of trees treated	23	4
Max. diam., 22" stump	44 inches	33 inches
Min. diam., 22" stump	11 "	17 "
Average diam., 22" stump	23.6 "	23 "
Max. Infested length	115 feet	45 feet
Min. infested length	10 "	25 "
Average infested length	55.6 "	35 "

CONCLUSION: During October 1928 forty-three lodgepole pine trees in the Lodgepole Camp area were felled and treated in an effort to decrease the ravages of Dendroctonus Monticolae The fact that only four lodgepole pines required treatment this year indicates the success of the 1928 project. The four trees treated this year may have been infested from trees over looked last year or the trees may have been attacked by beetles migrating from Willow Meadow where the bark beetles are quite active. Further observation is necessary to determine the necessity of treating Willow meadow which of itself is not important enough to warrant a control project.

In view of the satisfactory results obtained from treating lodgepole pine, there are no apparent reasons why the work on the jeffrey pine this season should not be equally successful.

Respectfull submitted,
Frank Been
Acting Park Forester